

REMARKS

This Amendment and Response to Non-Final Office Action is being submitted in response to the non-final Office Action mailed January 10, 2008. Claims 1-21 are pending in the Application.

Claim 1 is allowed. Claims 3-6, 9-13, and 15-21 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Drawings are objected to because FIG. 13a is a duplicate of FIG. 13.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sanderson et al. (US 2004/0223498).

Claims 7, 8, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson et al. (US 2004/0223498) in view of Gillet et al. (US 2003/0097443).

In response to these objections and rejections, Claims 2, 4, 5, 7, 10, and 11 have been amended and Claims 3 and 9 have been canceled to further clarify the subject matter which Applicants regard as the invention, without prejudice or disclaimer to continued examination on the merits. These amendments are fully supported in the Specification, Drawings, and Claims of the Application and no new matter has been added. Based upon the amendments and the arguments presented herein, reconsideration of the Application is respectfully requested.

Objection to the Drawings

The Drawings are objected to because FIG. 13a is a duplicate of FIG. 13.

Please cancel FIG. 13a. As FIG. 13a is not mentioned in the Specification, no corresponding amendment to the Specification is required. Likewise, no renumbering of the remaining figures is required.

Claim 2 – 35 U.S.C. 102(e) – Sanderson et al.

Claim 2 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sanderson et al. (US 2004/0223498).

Independent Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the objected to, but otherwise allowable, elements/limitations of dependent Claim 3.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sanderson et al. (US 2004/0223498) has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

Claims 7, 8, and 14 – 35 U.S.C. 103(a) – Sanderson et al. and Gillet et al.

Claims 7, 8, and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson et al. (US 2004/0223498) in view of Gillet et al. (US 2003/0097443).

Independent Claim 7 has been amended to incorporate the objected to, but otherwise allowable, elements/limitations of dependent Claim 9.

Therefore, Applicants submit that the rejection of Claims 7, 8, and 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sanderson et al. (US 2004/0223498) in view of Gillet et al. (US 2003/0097443) has now been overcome and respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Applicants would like to thank Examiner for the attention and consideration accorded the present Application. Should Examiner determine that any further action is necessary to place the Application in condition for allowance, Examiner is encouraged to contact undersigned Counsel at the telephone number, facsimile number, address, or email address provided below. It is not believed that any fees for additional claims, extensions of time, or the like are required beyond those that may otherwise be indicated in the documents accompanying this paper. However, if such additional fees are required, Examiner is encouraged to notify undersigned Counsel at Examiner's earliest convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: January 17, 2008

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